

# RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Tales From Gouger Hill



RUTLAND IN RETROSPECT

*After nearly a half century of wild times, order and decorum settled on Gouger Hill in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The neat rows of trees and lawns in this 1927 photo hardly suggest the name and tales of Gouger Hill.*

## About the Author



WILLIAM J. POWERS

William J. Powers, Jr. was raised in Rutland and Lake Dunmore and currently lives in Rutland. He received a B.A. from St. Michael's College in 1967 and a M.A. from Ball State University in 1976. Bill spent 40 years associated with the U.S. Air Force, 21 years on active duty and 19 as a contractor at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts. He is active in the Rutland Historical Society where he is a member of the Research Committee. He is

also a past member of the Society's Board of Directors.

Bill is the author of *Leicester, Vermont's Silver Lake: Beyond the Myths* which was published in 2000. He loves research and has been involved in many projects such as determining the location and history of Fort Vengeance in Pittsford, Vermont, an exploration of the history of West Hill in Rochester, Vermont and tracing the location of a military aircraft crash in Vermont in 1957. Bill spends time at the family camp at Lake Dunmore and exhibits a great interest in Lake Dunmore's history. He is an acknowledged authority on the Vanderburgh family of Dutchess County, New York which he researched for over 30 years.

Bill is a frequent presenter on many of his research projects. For this work Bill wanted to acknowledge the research assistance of John S. Romano, Francis "Mickey" Kelly, and James Davidson.

## Introduction

For years the term "Gouger Hill" has mystified many people. How did the name come about? There was a generalized answer that it had somehow to do with the Irish and their penchant for drinking and fighting on Saturday nights. Such activities at the West Street covered bridge in the area called Nebraska are documented. The "Gouger" term seemed to be related to eye-gouging that occurred in many drunken fights.

Recently a more specific story of Gouger Hill has surfaced. This Quarterly is that story. Enjoy a fascinating story of an early Rutland neighborhood.

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# Tales from Gouger Hill

By William J. Powers, Jr.

The section of today's US Route 7 in Rutland, known as South Main Street, which stretches south from Christ the King Church down to Moon Brook has been known as "Gouger Hill" since at least the 1860s.

For many years, going back to the 1700s, Gouger Hill was anchored on the south by Moon Brook and the adjacent brickyards. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the top of the hill to the north was marked by Eleazer Wheelock's hotel. The brickyards operated well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the hotel, later called the *Brock House*, lasted until late into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



*The Brock House (above) is now a parking lot.*

The prosperity of Rutland grew rapidly as the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century approached. The industrial revolution had arrived! Marble and slate quarries abounded and the railroad made its introduction. The rise of iron works began. All required an extensive labor force. Soon, European emigration to America "the land of opportunity" brought hopeful workers. The potato famine in Ireland caused the Irish to be a significant

part of this increased relocation to America and Vermont. Among these Irish immigrants were James McDonough and his family.

James McDonough was born in County Sligo, Ireland about 1820<sup>1</sup> and married in Ireland, prior to 1847, Mary Conlin. By the late 1840s, they escaped the devastating Irish famine and had arrived in Lawrence, Massachusetts by 1849.<sup>2</sup> By 1853 they had settled in Rutland, Vermont where they lived in a house owned by Samuel and Hannah Kimball on the east side of present day South Main Street, number 108. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October that year, Mary purchased the house and lot for \$300.<sup>3</sup>

At an unknown date and for an unknown reason James McDonough, a shoemaker, became known as the "Gouger." Tradition says that he was subject to the "Irish curse" – alcohol, and was combative with a tendency to gouge opponents' eyes. Whether the gouging stories are true may never be known, but the nickname stuck – and not without good reason.

In the March Term of 1855, James appeared in the Rutland County Court to face an indictment for assaulting his wife. He pled guilty.<sup>4</sup> During the same term, his wife also appeared in court to answer charges for selling and furnishing intoxicating liquor. The verdict was guilty on three counts for selling, and one for furnishing.<sup>5</sup>

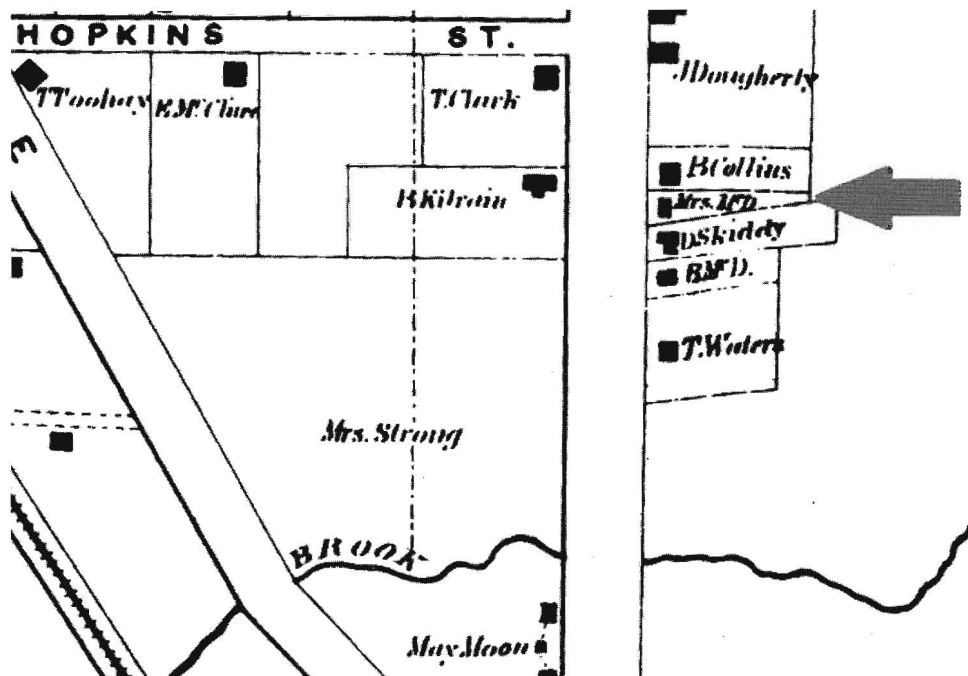
"The Gouger," was sentenced to three months imprisonment in the Rutland Jail for beating his wife. Shortly after that, Mary was sentenced to three months in jail on her liquor convictions. In May 1855, James and Mary, and two of their small children, along with James Dougherty and his wife, near neighbors and liquor peddlers on Gouger Hill, were occupying one room in Rutland's "inhuman jail."<sup>6</sup>

Sometime after 1857, James McDonough deserted his wife and family.

James may have been out of the picture by early 1858 when Mary appears to have been making a living selling liquor, for which she was assessed fines for a total of \$26.37.<sup>7</sup> Despite the penalties, Mary continued to make her livelihood selling spirits. From 1860 through 1862 she had to shell out a total of \$100.48 in fines and costs.<sup>8</sup>

In 1867, Mary is recorded as being a widow and living at 135 Main Street in Rutland. Her next door neighbor was Patrick (aka Bartholomew) Collins, a railroad watchman, who lived at 133 Main Street.<sup>9</sup>





*Mary McDonough's house on Main St. in Rutland, Vermont in 1869*

By 1872, the street numbers had changed and Mary was listed as living at 169 Main St. Collins was living at 167 Main.<sup>10</sup> She and Collins were recorded as living at the same addresses through 1878.<sup>11</sup>

One Saturday in May 1874, Oscar Phillips, of Rutland, became very much overcome from the effects of imbibing too much poor whisky. The query was: "Where did he procure it?" Officer Perkins was determined to know. After many inquiries he learned that on that afternoon Phillips gave one of the fair residents of Gouger Hill (Mary McDonough) twenty-five cents, with which she procured a half a pint of whiskey from Mary Dougherty, another resident on the hill. Mary McDonough gave it to Oscar, and in addition to that, he procured another pint on which he got "jolly drunk." Oscar was found on the turnpike [Woodstock Avenue] by his friends, who conveyed him home.<sup>12</sup>

In January 1878, Mary mortgaged her property to John D. Hanrahan. In that mortgage deed, she stated that she had been "deserted by her husband James McDonough twenty three years ago - & left wholly without means of support ... & said James has never been heard from since."<sup>13</sup> Though Mary may have been off several years concerning her

desertion, it nevertheless had been close to 20 years.

In August 1878, Mary's home on Gouger Hill was destroyed by fire:

"At about nine o'clock Saturday morning fire was discovered issuing from the roof of a house on Gouger hill, owned by Mary McDonough. It appears that the fire was kindled in the roof by sparks communicated from the house of Bartholomew Collins, which was consumed a few hours previous, and that it had been smoulering [sic] under the shingles for a long time. When the alarm was given the fire had made great progress; and upon the arrival of the fire department their efforts were directed mainly to saving property in the immediate vicinity of the doomed building.

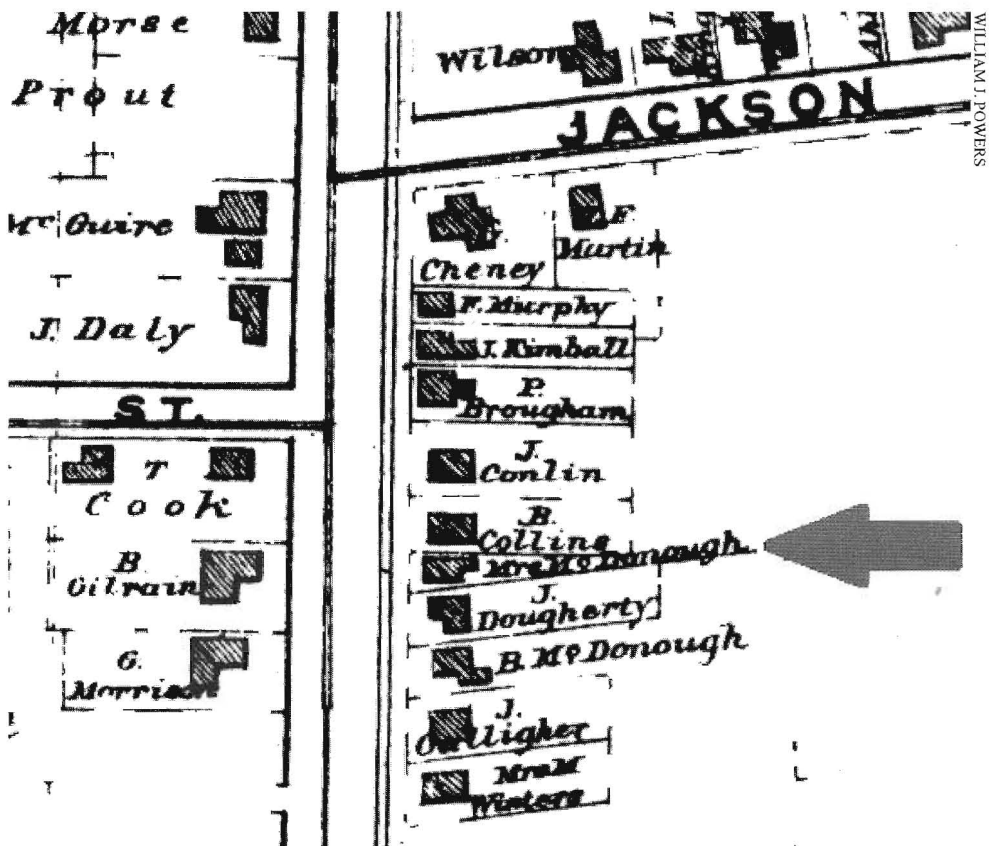
An individual who has been a resident of gouger hill for a number of years told a representative of the *Herald and Globe* yesterday that this house was one of the oldest landmarks on the hill. It was formerly the home of James McDonough, Sr., alias the "Gouger," as he was called in years gone by, from whom the hill derives its name, who was "exiled" by his wife a number of years ago for his riotous living. 'This house,' said he, 'was also the scene of many a blood thirsty encounter in 1862-3 - a large number of arrests for various offences having been made there during the enlistment period - and until recently it has fully sustained its reputation of being the scene of terrible dramas in drunken warfare.'

The property, we learn, was insured for about \$300. But very little of the furniture was saved.<sup>14</sup>

Collins' house was occupied by Nelson Hummel at the time of the fire. The house was a total loss. There was a partial loss of furniture. A kerosene lamp caused the fire. Mary's house was a total loss and the cause was determined to be accidental.<sup>15</sup>

Despite the fires, Mary and Collins still owned or occupied the same addresses in 1880.<sup>16</sup> That year, Mary and her widowed son, James, were living in a duplex at 169 Main St. with the Napoleon Porter family in Rutland. At this time, Mary declared that she was married, but had been deserted.<sup>17</sup>

In 1884, Mary still lived at the same address in the house shared with the Porters.<sup>18</sup>



Mary McDonough's house in 1884 on present day 108 South Main St., Rutland, VT.

Mary died on 14<sup>19</sup> or 18 Jul 1885 in Rutland. The Rutland Herald of 20 Jul 1885 carried this account of her passing:

"Mrs. Mary McDonough, who lived on South Main Street, fell Saturday afternoon and was injured so that she soon died. She broke her hip two years ago and was very lame, but went upstairs to get an ironing board which a neighbor sent to borrow because there happened to be nobody else about the house. When returning with the board she lost her balance near the head of the stairs and fell, struck her head near the bottom so as to break the skull, never regaining consciousness, and died in a few hours. She was 70 years old.



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*Former home of Mary (Conlin) McDonough 108 South Main St., Rutland, Vermont.<sup>21</sup>*

Mary is buried in the Old Catholic Cemetery, West Street, Rutland, Vermont.<sup>22</sup>

Even though "The Gouger" and his wife passed on, the residents kept the hill's traditions alive, both before and after the McDonoughs' passing.

One morning in August 1873, an Irishman came from Wallingford to Rutland in a drunken condition. He called at the house of a "colored individual" on Gouger Hill, and requested to see a certain female who boarded there. The mistress of the house denied him entrance, and, to keep him away, offered to give him a warm reception with hot water if he still persisted. He came away at last, and in the course of an hour or two, with the aid of another drink, he became courageous enough to

make a second call upon the fair one. This time the “castle” was reinforced by one Darius Wheeler, “of colored descent,” who threatened vengeance on the Irish gent if he tarried there. Armed with a meerschau pipe, which the son of Erin took for a revolver, he frightened him away, not, however, until he had smashed in several panes of glass in his frantic efforts to effect an entrance. Constable Sanderson heard of it and went for the Irishman. After a chase across the fields, the Irishman was secured and brought to jail. He went to court to be tried for intoxication and for breaking the windows.

The *Rutland Daily Globe* commented “that there is something wrong going on at that house on Gouger Hill, and the sooner it is squelched the better it will be for the good name of the neighborhood and the honor of Gouger hill.”<sup>23</sup>

A year to the month later, Bridget Waters, daughter of “The Gouger” and Mary McDonough displayed her serious issues with alcohol. She appeared in Police Court before Justice B.W. Marshall in August 1874. She “denied that she had been drunk and at the same time acted in so outrageous a manner as to produce a suspicion that she was still suffering from that disease. She was fined \$13.94 and put back in jail to enable her to collect her senses and to allow the remainder of the alcohol to evaporate out of her system.”<sup>24</sup>

Two days after this incident appeared in the *Rutland Herald*, another Bridget Waters called at the *Herald* and stated that she was not the same Bridget who had recently appeared in Police Court. She related that: “the woman’s name who figured there is ‘Besey’ Waters and lives on Gouger Hill ...” She went on to say that she lives on Green Street [Killington Avenue] and “and is no such woman as the other.”<sup>25</sup>

After she dried out, Bridget appeared in Police Court on August 5<sup>th</sup>. The *Rutland Herald* gave the following account:

“Justice Marshall was called upon yesterday morning to hear the disclosure of Bridget Waters who was committed [sic] a day or two before for intoxication. She refused at that time to give any information with regard to the person who sold her the liquor, but on Tuesday night found abundant reason, as she thought, to change her mind.

It seems that Mary Jane Parker, committed for vagrancy, was put into the same apartment with Bridget and during that night Mary Jane, who has not fully recovered from the criminal assault made upon her by Nichols, was seized with one of

her severe convulsions and became decidedly troublesome. Her spasmodic groans and hysterical actions frightened poor Bridget nearly to death and the latter began to think that her time had come and called upon the Holy Virgin in her fright to bear witness that she would tell where she got her liquor if she ever came out of the room alive, which she very much doubted. Finally she called up Mrs. Sanderson and besought her to go for the Justice and ease her conscience of the terrible guilt that rested upon it. Bridget was given different quarters and Mary Jane was made more comfortable, and when morning came Justice Marshall was summoned.

Bridget then disclosed on Mary Lawlor of Gouger Hill as the party who accommodated her with a drink. Mary was sent for and duly fined \$17.50 for the first offense, and Bridget was released from her confinement and misery at one and the same time.<sup>26</sup>

The east end of Hopkins Street abuts Gouger Hill. In July 1875, a "considerable disturbance was caused on Hopkins street Saturday night by Mrs. John McDonough, who beat her step daughter, a girl about twelve years old, and afterward, it is said, burned a portion of the girl's clothes and six dollars in money which she had saved. The police visited the place and restored order without making any arrests."<sup>27</sup>

The following month, *The Rutland Daily Globe* announced that "Satan walketh in the night time." It went on to report that "He generally reaches Rutland Saturday night and brings several deputies. He was abroad on Gouger Hill last Saturday night about half-past ten and got up a first-class row. Women screamed, men swore and children cried, but it was all settled without the police."<sup>28</sup>

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1876 was the Centennial of the United States. The folks on Gouger Hill were ready for the celebration. On April first, a local fellow got an early start on the celebration when he tried to climb Gouger Hill under the impression that it was a greased pole!! It was reported that "rum had fooled him."<sup>29</sup>

Despite its nefarious reputation, the Gouger Hill folks were reported "to have more patriotism than the rest of the village combined." In preparation for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration the Gouger Hillers, about 200 strong, assembled at midnight to march through Rutland's streets and make "the welkin ring" [a very loud sound] with fife, horn and drum, and powder and cannon, preceded by the chief marshal on a thirty-year-



old horse, fed on sawdust for the last year. Torchlights were scattered thickly through their ranks.<sup>30</sup>

The Gouger Hill guard passed through Rutland's streets about one o'clock on the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup> with their marshal seated upon a prancing steed, with the rear guard on foot bearing torches, and keeping step to the melodious strains of the band. They gave *The Rutland Daily Globe* office a serenade of tin horns and a national salute. The effect was sublime, the roar of artillery and the clash of arms magnificent, and the musical voices of the guard resounded upon the balmy midnight air with cheers of grateful patriotism. The officers of the Gouger Hill guard were: Major-general, Jack Snipes; aide-de camp, Jack Carroll; captain, Dick Clark; drum-major, Jim McGuirk; corporal, Jim Gallagher.<sup>31</sup> Later in July, the Gouger Hill Guards paid their respects to the Bardwell and Paige houses, the *Rutland Herald* office and several of the residences of Rutland's prominent citizens.<sup>32</sup>

Celebrations were not so laudable for those of the Green Street [Killington Avenue] area that abutted the top of Gouger Hill. There was a "very general drunk" among some of the Green Street residents. John Duffy, Dennis Shay and Cornelius Cocklin were arrested and brought before Justice H.W. Porter for intoxication. Each was fined \$5 plus costs. Mary McDonough, of Gouger Hill, was also fined \$5 and costs for intoxication. They "disclosed" on James Stewart who was fined \$30 and costs for two offences of selling and one of keeping liquor.<sup>33</sup>

By mid-July 1876 Gouger Hill was noted for "becoming a very lawless locality of late." On a Sunday night, Charles Nolan was stabbed "in a row" in the house of Jonathan Snipes; Monday a man going down the hill after his cow, was chased and stoned by another; and Tuesday morning old-man Dan Daley got into an altercation with a younger man about a cow and was knocked down and beaten.<sup>34</sup>

The new year of January 1877 opened with 16 year old Johnny Skiddy of Gouger Hill being arrested on a Saturday night at the depot on the arrival of the train from Saratoga, New York. While visiting friends in Glens Falls, New York, he stole a sum of money and started for home. The Rutland officers, being apprised by telegraph, met him and he was lodged in jail. Nine dollars and seventy-five cents were found in his possession. He confessed to the theft immediately. It was speculated that he would be taken to the reform school in Vergennes, Vermont.<sup>35</sup>

Fires began to plague Gouger Hill in 1877 and continued into 1878.

In March 1877, Brian McDonough's house accidentally burned.<sup>36</sup> In May, Mr. McGowan, a night watchman, discovered a fire in an unoccupied shanty on Gouger Hill. It was determined to be set on purpose but damage was minimal since the fire was discovered early.<sup>37</sup> In July, at "about half past two" in the morning "the house of Bartley Gilrain, in the lower end of Gouger Hill, burned. It was under full headway when discovered, communicated to a small barn in the rear, and both were burned nearly down before the firemen arrived, led by the Cramton Hose, who threw the first water. The house was occupied by Bartley Gilrain and his wife and son Michael, about twenty years old." Michael stated that "when he went to bed, about one o'clock, he smelled smoke, and spoke to his mother about it. She told him it was the oven and he went to bed upstairs. The next he knew the fire was crackling around him. A little furniture on the lower floor was saved and a pig rescued from the barn. Everything else burned. The house was insured for \$500 or \$600 in the Vermont Mutual. The house was an old one worth little if any more than that."<sup>38</sup>

The steepness of Gouger Hill was a great attraction for winter sledding or "coasting" as it was called in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. January 1887 had excellent weather for the sport. But the "prime condition" of the hill attracted those who weren't in prime condition to handle it. In early January, 19 year old Herbert Curtis, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Samuel P. Curtis<sup>39</sup> of Grove Street in Rutland, was steering a traverse load of young people, and when they were approaching the bridge over Moon Brook, he was thrown off. He struck his head with considerable force against the side of the bridge. He was picked up unconscious and taken to Dr. Pond's office, where his wounds were dressed. There were several severe cuts on the top of his head which bled profusely. The accident caused a severe concussion of the brain. None of the other coasters were injured.<sup>40</sup>

Several days later, on January 6<sup>th</sup>, another group met a similar but more serious fate when their traverse slammed into the Moon Brook Bridge at the foot of Gouger Hill. The hill was very icy and smooth and did not have a good worn track as in previous winters. Careful steering was required to take a load down safely. Thirty or forty boys from 10 to 18 years of age were sliding on the hill all the afternoon and there were several traverses there at the time of the accident.

About 4:30 PM a traverse started down the slide with 20 boys on board and Walter Newton steering. It was overloaded and bystanders remarked that there shouldn't have been more than 12 aboard. "The

sled attained a fearful rate of speed and as it approached the bridge, a runner on one of the hind bobs split. This threw the hind end of the traverse on the west edge of the embankment and the forward end struck squarely against the end of the iron side of the bridge with fearful force. All the boys were thrown down the embankment, a distance of ten feet, striking on the rocks and the rough ground below."

Johnnie Kingsley, 12 years old, son of Lawrence Kingsley of Jackson Avenue, was thrown into the air, and came down striking his stomach on the old stump of a tree. He was picked up unconscious and was found to be injured internally.

Cyril Gee, 15 years old, son of Mr. Frederick Gee of Green Street [Killington Avenue], was fatally injured and died on January 13<sup>th</sup>.<sup>41</sup>

Tommy Shields, who sat behind Gee on the traverse, said that Gee was thrown several feet into the air, and came down head first, striking on a rock. The right side of the skull about the size of the palm of the hand was found to be crushed into the head about two inches.

Kingsley received a severe concussion of the spine, and was in critical condition but he recovered. Walter Newton, who was steering the traverse, had several teeth knocked out. Walter Flanders was severely bruised, but had no bones broken. The Shields boy, who is twelve years old, was severely bruised about the head and face and stunned considerably. Others were not injured, but they were severely shaken up.

Many considered it "a wonder that they were not all killed outright."<sup>42</sup>

As a result of the accidents on Gouger Hill, many speculated that the Rutland Village trustees had considered "trying to stop the coasting on Gouger Hill since the terrible accident." But such was not the case. They had given the boys permission to coast on Gouger Hill and the Garden Street hill [Kendall Street] and determined that they would not revoke the privilege after having granted it.<sup>43</sup>

Today, the nefarious tales of Gouger Hill are mostly forgotten. Christ the King church grandly marks the north end of the hill; its parking lot occupying the site of the old hotel lastly known as "The Brock House." Moon Brook still flows silently at the south, until downpours cause it to occasionally overflow its banks and inundate those who have infringed on its flood plain.

# End Notes

<sup>1</sup> *Naturalizations - Rutland County Court, Rutland, Vermont (1836-1906)*. Vol. 2, p. 67. Petition initial date – [blank]; James McDonough; Irishman; County Sligo, Ireland; born – 1820. [no further information.]

<sup>2</sup> Lawrence, Massachusetts Birth Records for 1849. Page 275.

Ledger entry #44; birth date – 17 Mar 1849; child – Mary; female; birthplace – Lawrence, Massachusetts; parents – James and M.C. McDonough; parents residence – Chest. Street, Lawrence; father's occupation – Laborer; father's birthplace – Ireland; mother's birthplace – Ireland.

And

Lawrence, Massachusetts Birth Records for 1849. Page 99.

Ledger entry #120; birth date – 17 Mar 1849; child – Mary; female; birthplace – Lawrence, Massachusetts; parents – James and M.C. McDonough; parents residence – Elm Street, Lawrence; father's occupation – Laborer.

<sup>3</sup> Rutland, Vermont Land Records, 18:571, 31 Oct 1853. Samuel Kimball and wife, Hannah, of Rutland, Rutland county, Vermont for \$300 sell to Mary McDonough, wife of James McDonough, of Rutland. Quitclaim. Land in Rutland. Begin at a point in the east line of the highway half way between the dwelling house now occupied by Mary McDonough and her husband, James McDonough, said point being in a line 10 feet north of the north wall of first described dwelling house; then east 9 rods; then south to the north line of Doherty's house lot; then on Doherty's north line to the east line of the highway; then on the east line of the highway to the beginning.

Mary to maintain a lawful fence on the east and north sides of the house lot.

<sup>4</sup> *Rutland Herald*, Rutland, Vermont, 30 Mar 1855, p. 2, col. 7. Rutland County Court. March Term 1855.

State vs. Jas. McDonough

Indictment for an assault. Plea Guilty.

<sup>5</sup> *Rutland Herald*, Rutland, Vermont, 6 Apr 1855, p. 2, col. 6. Rutland County Court. March Term 1855.

State vs. Mary McDonough

Information for selling and furnishing intoxicating liquor. Verdict guilty on three counts for selling, and one for furnishing.

<sup>6</sup> *Rutland Herald*, Rutland VT., Friday Morning, May 11, 1855. Vol. LXI. – No. 19, Whole No. 3134. Page 2, Column 4.

- WHY WILL YOU? Joseph Dougherty was sentenced, several weeks ago, to six months confinement in the Rutland County Jail for selling liquor. A few days since, his wife was sentenced to three months confinement in the same place, for like offence.

At the last term of the Rutland Co. Court, James Mc. Donough was sentenced to three months imprisonment in the Jail for beating his wife. A few days since, this partner of his joys and sorrows, Mary, was sentenced to three months imprisonment for selling liquor. These poor individuals, together with two small children, occupy one room in our inhuman jail.

<sup>7</sup> *Selectmen Report, Town of Rutland*. 2 Mar 1858. Page 14.

Cash Received for Fines and Costs:

Mary McDonough [sic]	\$14.81
Mary McDonough	\$11.50

<sup>8</sup> *Selectmen Report, Town of Rutland.* 1861. Pages 12 and 13.

Cash Received for Fine and Costs:

27 Aug 1860	Mary McDonough	Fine - \$10	Cost - \$5.32
8 Sep 1860	Mary McDonough	Fine - \$10	Cost - \$4.81
8 Sep 1860	Mary McDonough	Fine - \$10	Cost - \$5.97
6 Mar 1861	Mary McDonough	Fine - \$10	Cost - \$4.81

And

*Selectman Reports, Town of Rutland.* 1863. Page 29.

Abstract of Fines and Penalties

Mary McDonough	6 May 1862	Fine - \$30	Cost - \$9.57
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<sup>9</sup> Rutland, Vermont City Directory 1867:

Collins, Patrick, watchman, R.R., 133 Main

McDonough, Mary, widow, 135 Main

<sup>10</sup> Rutland, Vermont City Directory 1872-1873:

Page 20:

Collins, Patrick, laborer, house 167 Main

Page 38:

McDonough, Mary Mrs., house 169 Main

<sup>11</sup> Rutland, Vermont City Directory 1874-1875:

Page: 23

Collins, Bartholomew, laborer, house 167 Main

Page: 47

McDonough, Mary Mrs., widow, house 169 Main.

And

Rutland, Vermont City Directory 1878-1879:

Page 46:

Collins, Bartholomew, farmer, house 167 Main

Page 77:

McDonough, Mary M., widow, 169 Main

<sup>12</sup> *Rutland Daily Globe*, 20 May 1874.

<sup>13</sup> *Rutland, Vermont Land Records*, 39:74-76, 29 Jan 1978. Mary McDonough – Mortgage deed to J.D. Hanrahan.

Know all men by these presents that I Mary McDonough of Rutland in the County of Rutland and State of Vermont for the consideration of Five Hundred dollars received to my full satisfaction of John D. Hanrahan of Rutland in the County of Rutland and State of Vermont, do give, grant bargain sell and confirm unto the said John D. Hanrahan his heirs and assigns – A certain piece or parcel of land situate in Rutland in the County of Rutland and State of Vermont and described as follows namely, Beginning at a point in the East line of the highway between the dwelling house now occupied by the said Mary, and the dwelling house next north occupied formerly by John McDonough – said point being in a line ten feet north of the north wall of said first mentioned dwelling house – thence due East nine rods, thence due South to the north line of house lot formerly occupied by Daniel Doherty – thence on said Doherty's place said north line to the East line of said highway – thence on said East line of said highway to the place of beginning – meaning hereby to convey the same premises as were conveyed to me by Samuel & Hannah Kimball by deed bearing date October 31<sup>st</sup> A.D. 1853 - & recorded in Book 19, page 571, in the Book of land records in the Town Clerk's Office in said Rutland: It being understood & agreed & this

deed is made upon the condition that the said Hanrahan his heirs and assigns shall forever maintain a lawful fence on the North & East sides of the lot hereby conveyed.

The above deed is made with the provision hereafter mentioned in consideration of monies and values advanced for the support & benefit of said Mary: said Mary having been deserted by her husband James McDonough twenty three years ago – & left wholly without means of support except as she charges her estate above mentioned or conveys the same, & said James has never been heard from since.

To have and to hold the above granted premises with the appurtenances thereof unto the said John D. Hanrahan his heirs and assigns to them and their own proper use benefit and behoof forever. And also I the said grantor do for myself & my heirs, executors and administrators covenant with the said grantee his heirs and assigns, that at and until the ensembling of these presents I am well seized in fee of the above granted premises, and have good right to bargain and sell the same in manner and form as above written, and that the same are free from all encumbrances whatsoever.

And furthermore I the said Grantor do by these presents bind myself and heirs forever to warrant and defend the above granted premises to the said John D. Hanrahan grantee heirs and assigns against all lawful claims and demands whatsoever. And the premises above conveyed are to be kept well insured by me, and in case of fire the insurance money received thereby shall be paid to said Hanrahan as his interest shall appear.

Provided nevertheless that if I the said Mary McDonough my heirs executors or administrators shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the said John D. Hanrahan his heirs and assigns, all sums of money advanced for my support and benefit, and shall pay and take care of and save the said Hanrahan harmless from all notes & bills, now contracted or hereafter contracted by me, & from all notes and bills he may sign with or endorse for me, & from all costs & damages for such obligation as he shall assume for me as my security, & shall well & truly pay said Hanrahan for services he may have rendered or may hereafter render me, and for bills or accounts I may have contracted or may contract with him, according to the tenor and effect of said note, then this deed to be null and void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January A.D. 1878.

Signed sealed and delivered

her

in presence of

Mary X McDonough S. S.

L. W. Redington

mark

Geo. W. Warren

State of Vermont

Be it remembered that at Rutland

Rutland County

in said County on the 29<sup>th</sup> day

of January A.D. 1878, personally Mary McDonough and acknowledged the foregoing instrument by her sealed and subscribed to be her free act and deed.

Before me, L. W. Redington

Notary Public

Recd on record 29<sup>th</sup> Jany A.D. 1878 3:30 P.M.

I.M. Brown Asst Town Clerk

Over-written on the mortgage – SS March 93 J.D. Hanrahan. Discharged March 28<sup>th</sup> 1893 at 4 P.M.

[Initial transcription of this mortgage deed courtesy of John S. Romano.]



<sup>14</sup> *Rutland Herald*, 26 Aug 1878.

<sup>15</sup> *Annual Report of the Trustees & Other offices of Village of Rutland [Vermont]*, 1879. 1878 Fires, pages 42-43. Page 43:

Aug. 24. Bat. Collins, Main St., house occupied by Nelson Hummel; house, total loss; partial loss on furniture; insured, \$200; cause, kerosene lamp.

May [sic Aug.] 24. Mary McDonough, Main St., house, total loss; insured, \$300; cause accidental.

<sup>16</sup> Rutland, Vermont City Directory 1880-1881:

Page 75:

Collins, Bartholomew, farmer, h 167 Main

Page 112:

McDonough, Mary M., widow, 169 Main

<sup>17</sup> Census, 1880, Vermont, Rutland County, Rutland Village, 21 Jun 1880, p. 58.

450/601

Porter,	Napoleon	24 m		Stone Mason	VT Can Can
	Ellen	24 f	wife	Keeping House	VT Ire Ire
	James	5	son		VT VT VT
	Frank	2	son		VT VT VT
	George	7/12 Mar	son		VT VT VT

450/602

McDonough,	Mary	54 married	Keeping house deserted	Ire Ire Ire
	James son	24 wid/div	Works at scale shop	VT Ire Ire

<sup>18</sup> Rutland, Vermont City Directory 1884-1885:

Page 64:

Collins, Bartholomew, farmer, h. 167 Main

Page 110:

McDonough, Bryan, laborer, h. 173 Main

McDonough, James, shoemaker, h. Hopkins St.

McDonough, James, machinist, h. 173 Main

McDonough, Mary, clerk at B.H. Burts

McDonough, Mary, widow, h. 169 Main

Page 130:

Porter, Napoleon, mason, h. 169 Main

<sup>19</sup> Vermont Vital Records. Death. McDonough, Mary (Conlin); age – 70 years; widowed; born in Ireland; died 14 Jul 1885; cause – fall down stairs. Rutland, Vermont.

<sup>20</sup> Photo by Bill Powers, 25 Oct 2013.

<sup>21</sup> Lineage of the former Mary (Conlin) McDonough property  
Currently (2013), 108 South Main Street, Rutland, Vermont.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 47:181-183, 26 Jan 1886. Property of Mary McDonough, deceased, sold to Patrick Hennessy for \$650. Description: beginning at a point in the east line of the highway between the dwelling house of Mary McDonough and the house next north, formerly occupied by John McDonough, said point being in a line 10 feet north off the north wall of said mentioned dwelling house; then east 9 rods; then south to the north line of a house lot formerly occupied by Daniel Doherty; then on Doherty's former north line to the east line of the highway to the place of beginning.

See deed from Samuel and Hannah Kimball to Mary McDonough 18:571, 31 Oct 1853.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 2:2, 27 Mar 1893. Decree. Estate of Patrick Hennessy. Grantee – Ann Hennessey.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 15:432, 21 Apr 1902. Ann Hennessey to Michael Gilrain. House & lot, #108 east side of South Main Street. Same as in 47:181 in old town records.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 19:306, 20 Mar 1905. Michael Gilrain to John McArdle. House and lot #108 South Main St. Same as in 41:181 in old town records.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 26:60, 17 May 1910. John McArdle to Bryan Farrell and Margaret P. Farrell of Rutland. Same as in 19:306, 20 Mar 1905.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 9:452, 31 Mar 1917. James E. Creed, administrator of the estate of Margaret P. Farrell for \$1,200 to Sabina Meehan of Rutland. Premises known as 108 South Main Street.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 322:557, 15 Dec 1917. Sabina Meehan and Michael Meehan, husband and wife, of Rutland to Patrick and Margaret Cosgrove, husband and wife, of Rutland. 108 South Main Street.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 63:99, 27 Sep 1937. Patrick Cosgrove and Ann, his wife, of Chicago, Illinois to Ralph R. Devino and Catherine, his wife of Rutland.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 157:177-178, 6 Jul 1971. Catherine E. Devino and Irene D. Cota, formerly Irene F. Devino, of Rutland to William J. St. Peter and Lyn L. Letourneau and Paula J. Letourneau.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 177:565-567, 17 Mar 1975. William J. St. Peter and Lyn L. Letourneau and Paula J. Letourneau to Ingeborg Normandie.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 177:568-570, 17 Mar 1975. Ingeborg Normandie to Lyn L. Letourneau and Paula J. Letourneau.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 205:72-74, 13 Mar 1979. Lyn L. Letourneau and Paula J. Letourneau to Richard and Jolene Coolidge, husband and wife.

*Rutland City, Vermont Land Records.* 257:223-224, 29 Jul 1986. Richard and Jolene Coolidge, husband and wife, to Bruce C. Moran. [Moran was still the owner in the 1990s.]

<sup>22</sup> West Street Catholic Cemetery, Rutland Vermont:

McDonough, Mary, d. July 18, 1885 age 67 y.

<sup>23</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, August 19, 1873.

<sup>24</sup> *The Rutland Herald*, Tuesday, August 4, 1874. Police Court.

[Before Justice B. W. Marshall]

Bridget Waters denied that she had been drunk and at the same time acted in so outrageous a manner as to produce a suspicion that she was still suffering from that disease. She was fined \$13.94 and put back to enable her to collect her senses and to allow the remainder of the alcohol to evaporate out of her system.

<sup>25</sup> *The Rutland Herald*, Thursday, August 6, 1874. Local Notes

A woman by the name of Bridget Waters called at our office yesterday and stated that she was not the woman who figured in the Police Court report a few days ago. She says that the woman's name who figured there is 'Besey' Waters and lives on Gouger Hill, while her name is Bridget Waters, she lives on Green Street and is no such woman as the other.

<sup>26</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, August 6, 1874, Image 3. Police Court.

<sup>27</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, 26 Jul 1875.

<sup>28</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, August 16, 1875. Saturday Night Record.

<sup>29</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, April 3, 1876.

<sup>30</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, July 3, 1876. Grand Celebration To-night.

<sup>31</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, July 4, 1876.

<sup>32</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, July 4, 1876. Local Mention.

<sup>33</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, July 4, 1876.

<sup>34</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, July 19, 1876.

<sup>35</sup> *Rutland Herald*, 8 Jan 1877. City News.

<sup>36</sup> Selectmen Report, Town of Rutland. 1878. Page 30.

<sup>37</sup> *The Rutland Daily Globe*, May 24, 1877.

<sup>38</sup> *Rutland Daily Globe*, 16 Jul 1877.

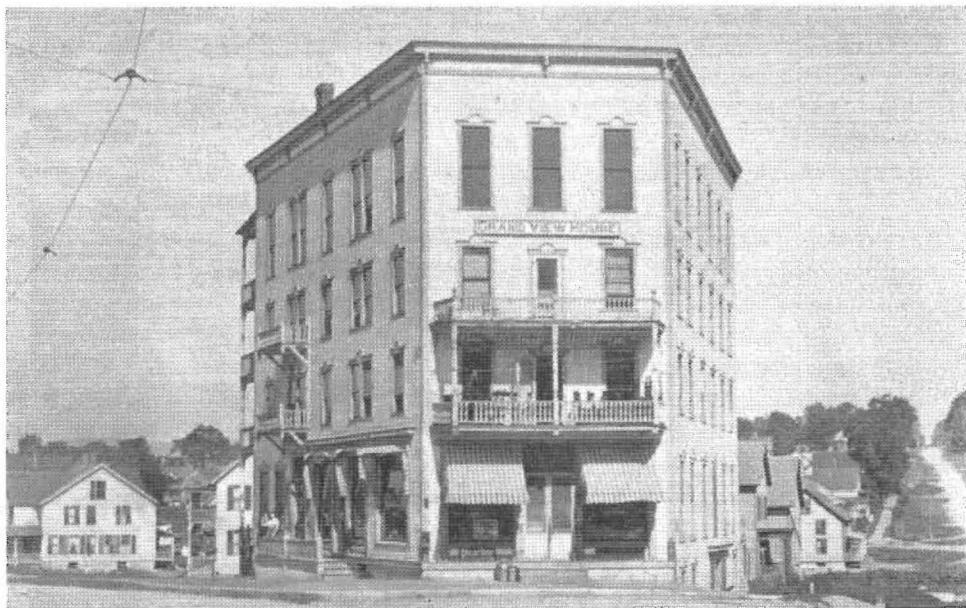
<sup>39</sup> Vermont Vital Records. Birth. Curtis, Herbert E.; born – 8 Dec 1867; mother – Amelia M., b. in Salem, NY; mother's residence – Castleton, VT; father – Saml. Curtis, b. in Castleton, VT; father's occupation – speculator. Castleton, Vermont.

<sup>40</sup> *Rutland Daily Herald*, Tues., 4 Jan 1887, p. 4, col. 2.

<sup>41</sup> *Rutland Daily Herald*, Friday, 14 Jan 1887, p. 8, col. 2.

<sup>42</sup> *Rutland Daily Herald*, Thurs., 6 Jan 1887, p. 4, col. 2.

<sup>43</sup> *Rutland Daily Herald*, Monday, 10 Jan 1887, page 4, column 3. About Town.



*The Belmont House of the 1890s became the Grand View House in 1903. During this era it was a landmark at the bottom of Gouger Hill.*



*Today the lower level of Gouger Hill has commercial development while the upper level of the hill is still residential.*